



**Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,
Cúram Priomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,**

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

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1st July 2025

Deputy McGreehan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 26805/25 To ask the Minister for Health whether a review has been conducted on the durability and functionality of bespoke orthopaedic shoes; and what measures exist to improve their quality and address issues related to wear and tear, particularly for individuals limited to one pair per year

- Erin McGreehan

Dear Deputy McGreehan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 26805/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) recognises the importance of the durability and functionality of bespoke orthopaedic footwear in meeting the clinical and daily living needs of individuals with complex mobility requirements. While a formal national review specifically focused on the durability of bespoke orthopaedic shoes has not been conducted to date, local services and orthotic departments routinely monitor patient feedback, clinical outcomes, and supplier performance as part of ongoing service quality assurance.

It should be noted that the mobility levels of users of orthopaedic footwear can vary significantly i.e. limited walking ability indoors, to fully active in and outdoor environment in adverse weather conditions so the requirements of the footwear will vary greatly.

The HSE provides for Irish, UK, and European suppliers to enable as broad a choice of supplier as possible, to enable matching service user requirements to the best product specification. HSE Orthotists also have regular engagement as a group to discuss and address supplier issues or product developments.

I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt

General Manager
Primary Care Access & Integration